

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 20, 1999 LB 440A, 637

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Good morning and welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. This morning our chaplain for the day is Pastor Brian Moulton. He's from the Country Bible Church in Bennet, Nebraska, which is in Senator Byars' district. Pastor.

PASTOR MOULTON: (Prayer offered.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Pastor. I call the sixty-sixth day of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature to order. Members, please record your presence. Roll call. Please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you. Corrections to the Journal?

CLERK: No corrections this morning, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Reports, messages, or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, just one item. A letter, a communication from the Clerk to the Secretary of State regarding LB 440A. That's the only item I have. (Legislative Journal pages 1537-1538.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We next move back to General File, senator priority bills. LB 637. Senator Brown, I'm going to give you just a moment or two to bring us up to speed on where we're at today, and then we'll move into debate.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. LB 637 is legislation that is required under the Federal Welfare Reform to help us comply...to help us to do our child support collections. If we do not pass LB 637, we stand to lose \$15 million in child support funds that the federal government has been providing us to increase our child support collections. Since 1991, when wage withholding was instituted, which was the first biggie of some of the cooperative child support enforcement tools that have been put in place, we have increased, in Nebraska, child support from \$30 million to \$120 million. We adopted several